

NO. 27.

AN ENGLISHMAN

On Our American Railroad System.

DEAR BROTHER WARD:—My two last letters to you were business letters, but in this one I shall endeavor to give you some news concerning ourselves, our work, the country, etc. We are all well, except our little daughter, Ruth, who is an addition to the family since my last writing. She has been very ill, in fact we had but little hopes of her recovery a few days since, but God, in His goodness, has seen fit to spare her, for which we are devoutly thankful. Every day multiplies the goodness of our dear Father in heaven and brings us under renewed obligations to love and serve Him. To-day closes the old year and to-morrow we start on a new. I wonder what special revelations the new year will have for each of us. No doubt if we could see all the events of 1892 now, as we see those of the year which has just gone, many of us would shrink from starting into it. For some it will have joy and for others sorrow. To some it will bring fortune and to others misfortune. But God, for our sakes, has very wisely hid these things from us. In this matter we all, whether Christians or non-Christians, have "to walk by faith and not by sight."

By coming I find we have started on our third year as Indian missionaries. If it were not for dates and figures I could scarcely believe it. How time slips by, and yet when we think of the day when we said goodbye to you all and sailed away from our dear native country it seems an age. I suppose the bishop thinks we have served our missionary apprenticeship and are now capable of taking up work among the natives, as he has just told me he intends to put us in native work at the approaching conference, which convenes in Moradabad, back from today. However, not thinking I had yet done any work among the natives up to the time, for I have. Although I have been rather idle in the language, yet I have preached in the bazaar and done all I could to promote the cause of our Savior among these benighted people. On Christmas day I baptized two men fresh from Hinduism, and have four more candidates for next Sunday. You, no doubt, have

read accounts of the work which is being done here in North India. It is simply marvelous. This year our conference alone will roll up 10,000 baptisms—you must be bare to know what that means. At the chandauli mela (camp meeting) held a few weeks ago 3,000 native Christians were on the grounds, and the Holy Ghost came down in old fashioned style. Many were soundly converted and great power was given to the native preachers, which, no doubt, will make them even more successful in winning souls for Christ this year than last.

I have recently made a trip to Calcutta. I went down as a delegate to the annual meeting of the India Sunday School Union, and while there I had an opportunity of attending the evangelist meetings held by Dr. Pontecost, of Brooklyn, N. Y.; also, I formed the acquaintance and heard the renowned singer, Mr. Stebbens. You, no doubt, have read of Dr. Pontecost and his party and their visit to India. They are working among the Europeans and English speaking natives of Calcutta, and are doing a great work. The meetings go on day after day with unceasing interest. Many have been brought from darkness into light. Calcutta is indeed a wonderful city. "The city of palaces" is very appropriate. You can hardly believe, when you are in Calcutta, that you are

an oriental city. It reminds one more of London or New York. Calcutta is not on the sea, but on one of the large mouths of the Ganges, called the Hoogly, and yet it is one of the largest sea ports in the world. Splendid ships visit this port, and the maritime commerce of this place is immense. While in Calcutta I visited the U.S. Consul. I heard before I went to see him that he was of Indianapolis. So when I sent my card in I wrote Indiana on one corner of it. When his wife, Mrs. Merrill, came in, she said, "I am glad to see a Hoosier," and I said, "So am I."

Our mission has suffered great losses this year by removals and deaths. Only a short time ago we buried our dear Brother Maxwell, who died of cholera. We are in great need of men. It seems to me that Indiana conference could spare one or two missionaries and be none the worse for it.

Now my dear Brother, I must close my remarks for this time. Please give my regards to all the preachers in Rockport District and tell them I pray God's greatest blessing on them in their work. Kindly remember us to all our friends in Rockport.

Yours sincerely,

J. B. THOMAS.

The celebrated case of Marshall Lafferty vs. O. & M. R. R. Co. for malicious prosecution, will be tried again. The circuit court at Princeton sustained a motion for a new trial, and the case will come on for hearing after the close of the May term of court.

DEAR COUNTRY: I arrived in Washington all right. On examining the Treasury, I find the surplus all gone, but the safe is here, and, apparently, safe.

J. A. LEBLANC.

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